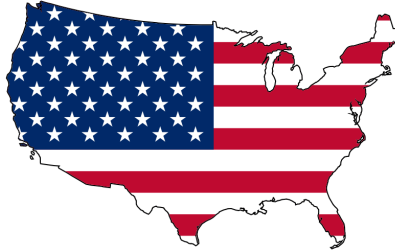


United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



Global articles for your interest
Issue 17
October 17 - November 1, 2009

Contents:

1. Freedom of Speech and Religion Must Be Balanced, Clinton Says

There must be a sensible balance between freedom of religion and freedom of speech, says Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in releasing the annual Report on International Religious Freedom. Freedom of religion, she says, “allows nations that uphold it to become more stable, secure and prosperous.” ...

2. Education, Economic Opportunity Help Curb Violence Against Women

Education and economic empowerment are among the most important tools to prevent the victimization of millions of women around the world who are suffering from violence, experts tell members of the U.S. Congress. ...

3. Muslim Prayer Day Illustrates Dynamics of Free Speech in US

On the scale of events at the U.S. Capitol, it was unremarkable: several thousand Americans participating in an outdoor day of prayer. In another sense, the Muslim prayer service on September 25 served as a microcosm of how free speech and the right to protest function daily in American society. ...

4. Senate Vote Marks Next Step in Complex Effort to Close Guantánamo

Efforts to close the detention facility at the Guantánamo Bay Naval Station reflect the complexity of ensuring due process as well as national security. The U.S. Senate votes to allow government transfer of prisoners from Guantánamo to U.S. federal courts for prosecution. ...

5. Education, Economic Opportunity Help Curb Violence Against Women

Education and economic empowerment are among the most important tools to prevent the victimization of millions of women around the world who are suffering from violence, experts tell members of the U.S. Congress. ...

In case you missed it:

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook](#) page



U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Youtube channel](#) 



Ambassador Reeker touring the site of the Holy Mother of God "Peribleptos" Church with President Ivanov, Minister of Culture Kancheska-Milevska and Director of the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Pasko Kuzman. (LP)

 **video** - MTV 1 (WMV - size 4.21 MB)
A1 TV (WMV - size 3.06 MB) -  **video**

[The Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation: Preserving the Holy Mother of God "Peribleptos" Church in Ohrid](#)

October 29, 2009

Ambassador Reeker and Minister of Culture Kancheska-Milevska signed an agreement for the preservation and restoration of the Peribleptos Church, its architecture and its frescoes. Through a U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation grant, The State Department will be contributing \$650,000 to restoration for the Church. This program is used to fund cultural heritage preservation projects around the world. Embassy Skopje was one of only three U.S. Embassies to win the award this year. This significant contribution is a powerful sign of our Strategic Partnership with Macedonia and our joint efforts to preserve its cultural heritage. President Ivanov joined Ambassador Reeker and Minister of Culture Kancheska-Milevska in giving remarks at the House of Robevci for the signing of this historic agreement.

- ◆ **To read Ambassador Reeker's remarks, please [click here](#).**
- ◆ **View the local coverage of this event on [(MTV1 - video WMV file, size 4.21 MB) & (A1 TV - video WMV file, size 3.06 MB)].**
- ◆ **To see more photos from the event, please [click here](#).**



Megalithic Observatory Kokino supported with AFCP grant in 2006 (LP)

Call for Proposals for the 2010 Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP)


The U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia is currently accepting proposals for the 2010 Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, see: <http://www.exchanges.state.gov/afcp/index.html>

AFCP supports preservation projects in the following three categories...[more](#).

Deadline for submitting proposals: December 10, 2009.



Ambassador Reeker takes picture with the Red Cross Volunteers who participated in the Global Day of Service. (LP).

You  video in: [English](#) | [Macedonian](#) & [Albanian](#).

[Remembering 9/11 by Giving Back to the Community](#)

A Day of Service: Community Blood and Food Drive

On October 21st the US Embassy partnered with the Skopje Red Cross to collect blood, food and financial donations for the citizens of Macedonia. President Barack Obama provided the impetus for this event when he asked embassies worldwide to organize an action where diverse religious, ethnic and racial groups would come together to work towards a common cause. He believed this would be the best way to honor the victims of the attacks that took place on September 11, 2001. As a result of this event, more than 100 people volunteered to donate blood. In addition, the Red Cross received food and funding which they will use to provide for families during the coming winter. When addressing volunteers and participants, Ambassador Reeker stressed that events like this show us what is possible when we put aside our differences and focus on the things that unite us. The Embassy would like to thank those that joined us on October 21st and encourage those who could not to visit one of the Red Cross offices and make a donation. Collectively we can address any challenge we face but we all must do our part.

♦ To see a short Embassy video product about this event, please visit our Embassy  video channel ([English](#) | [Macedonian](#) | [Albanian](#)).

♦ To see Ambassador Reeker's speech (WMV-size 6.27MB) at the event, please [click here](#), to read the text, please [click here](#).

♦ To see coverage from MTV1 in Macedonian (WMV-size 2.55MB), please [click here](#).

♦ To see news coverage on Alsat-M TV in Albanian (WMV- size 3.33MB), please [click here](#).



Students present to Mrs. Reeker a robotic project underway. (LP)

[Mrs. Solveig Reeker Opens the New Technology Lab at Veles Primary School](#)

October 29, 2009

Today, Mrs. Solveig Reeker joined Keith Prenton of the Primary Education Project, Slavco Cadiev, the Head of the Veles City Council, and Principal Asen Prlickov from "Vasil Glavinov" primary school for a ribbon cutting ceremony to launch a new Technology Lab. The Technology Lab will help students in Veles learn basic skills through creative experiences while increasing their understanding of modern technology and fostering positive work attitudes. The students demonstrated how they have already used the lab to create a solar windmill, a robot and computer animation.

♦ To read Mrs. Reeker's remarks, please [click here](#).

♦ To see more photos from the event, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Philip Reeker, Father Dositej and Mayor of Debar Argëtim Fida. (LP)

Ambassador Reeker visits Saint John Bigorski Monastery and meets local leaders from Debar and Centar Zupa

October 26, 2009

October 26--Ambassador and Mrs. Reeker visited the Saint John Bigorski Monastery to pay their respects after a tragic fire devastated the complex on September 30, 2009. The Ambassador presented a donation on behalf of the employees of the United State Embassy and indicated that the Embassy would look for other ways to support the effort to restore the Monastery. The Ambassador also met with Mayor Argetim Fida and other mayoral candidates from the last election in Debar as well as meeting with Mayor Mazlum Hasan of Centar Zupa. Ambassador Reeker praised the response of all the ethnic communities to the fire and stated that it provided a good example for how different ethnic and religious groups can coexist.



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

Release of the International Religious Freedom Report

October 26, 2009

Secretary Clinton: "[W]e are convinced that the best antidote to intolerance is a combination of robust legal protections against discrimination and hate crimes, proactive government outreach to minority religious groups, and the vigorous defense of both freedom of religion and expression. So it is our hope that the International Religious Freedom Report will encourage existing religious freedom movements around the world and promote dialogue among governments and within societies on how best to accommodate religious communities and protect each individual's right to believe or not believe, as that individual sees fit."... [Secretary Clinton Remarks | Report](#).

»»» **Republic of Macedonia:** 2009 International Religious Freedom Report...[full text](#).

◇ To see the Embassy press announcement of the 2009 IRF Report, please [click here](#).



Public Affairs Officer Ryan Rowlands, Integrity AlfaOmega Director Brian Richards and Mayor Ramiz Merko join race participants on a beautiful fall day. / (LP)

Bringing People Together Through Sports

October 24, 2009

The US Embassy worked with Integrity Alfa Omega, the Agency for Youth and Sport and several local businesses and municipalities to sponsor duathalons for youth. Kids from Struga, Probistip and Bitola competed in cycling and running races during the past week and joined students from Skopje in the City Park on Saturday for the last race. Both Mayor Ramiz Merko from Struga and the Mayor Koce Trajanovski of Skopje attended the event and cheered on the participants as they ran and biked through the park.

♦ To see photos of the event, please [click here](#).

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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